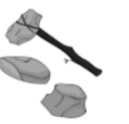


THE STONE AGE TO IRON AGE

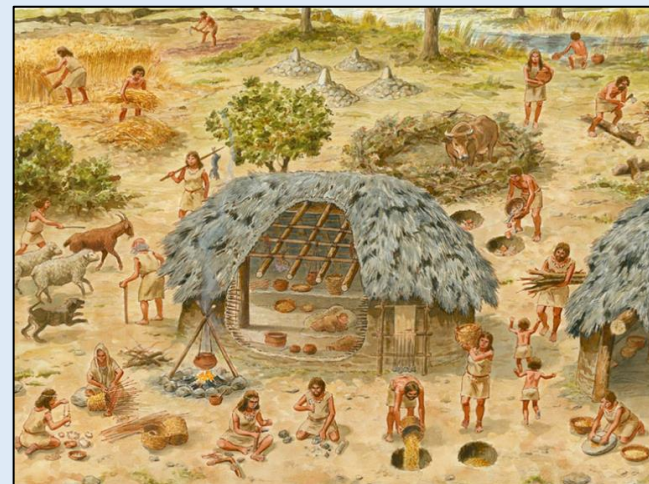
KNOWLEDGE ORGANISER



Overview

The Stone Age to Iron Age

The period of prehistory in Britain generally refers to the time before written records began. It begins when the earliest hunter-gatherers came to Britain from Europe around 450,000 BC and ends with the invasion of the Romans in AD 43. The Stone Age, Bronze Age and Iron Age covers 98% of human history in Britain. The evolution of humans from the earliest hominins to Homosapiens occurred in this period. Some of the major advances in technology were achieved during this period, including the control of fire, agriculture, metalworking and the wheel.



STONE AGE

Palaeolithic to 10,000 BC
Mesolithic to 4000 BC

BRONZE AGE

2300 BC to 800 BC

IRON AGE

800 BC to AD 43

The Stone Age

The term 'Stone Age' refers to a very long period of time that we can break up into three sections. In the early Stone Age, which we call the Paleolithic, people were hunters and they found food by roaming from place to place in different seasons. The middle Stone Age, called the Mesolithic, began at a time when sea levels rose and Britain became an island (before this time Britain was joined to the mainland of Europe).

During the Mesolithic period, tools were developed to become smaller and finer. The invention of canoes meant that people were better able to hunt for fish as well as animals. In the late Stone Age, which is called the Neolithic, the way people lived changed a lot because they began to settle into farming villages instead of moving from place to place. People started to look after animals and grow their own crops.

The Bronze Age

When people discovered how to get metals out of rocks, a metal called bronze replaced stone as the best material for making tools. Bronze was made using a special process called 'smelting'. People were able to build better farming equipment and they also began to make bronze weapons and jewellery. When people died, they were buried with their most important possessions. Many of these burial objects have now been discovered and they help historians to know more about what life was like during the Bronze Age.

The Iron Age

In the Iron Age, a metal called iron replaced bronze as the main material for making tools and weapons. People lived in tribes and they were often at war with each other. Because of all of the wars, Iron Age people began to protect themselves by settling in hillforts, which were groups of round houses and farming land protected by stone walls. Sometimes people from the Iron Age are called 'Celts'. This period of history ended when the Romans invaded Britain in AD 43.

Weapons



Skara Brae



Stonehenge



Key Vocabulary

Chronology

BC

AD Anno Domini

Archaeology

Historical evidence

Hunter-gatherers

Farmers

Additional Vocabulary

Key Dates